



## Family Preservation Services, Costs and Outcomes in Los Angeles: First Findings

Presentation for the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families  
(April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012)

**FPS Evaluation Team Members:** Todd Franke, Peter J. Pecora and  
Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Jacquelyn McCroskey, Jaymie Lorthridge,  
Timothy Ho and Anne Vo

1

### Outline

- I. FPS Evaluation Purpose and Programs Examined
- II. Research Questions
- III. Persons Served by FPS
- IV. Findings: FPS Outcomes
- V. What Predicts FPS Success?
- VI. Recommendations

2

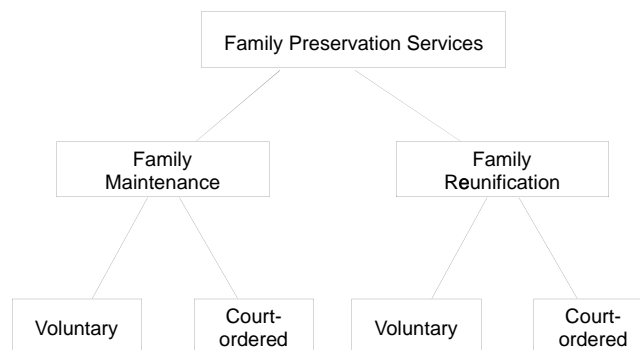
## Purpose of the FPS Evaluation Study

Examines FPS data for the time period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010:

- Characteristics of the families served
- Agencies
- Services
- Costs
- Outcomes (including how FPS agencies are meeting the performance benchmarks set in their contracts)
- DCFS worker and Regional Office Administrator satisfaction with the contracted FPS

3

## Four Key FPS Programs Were Examined



4

## Research Questions

1. Who is being served by different kinds of DCFS Family Preservation Services?
2. What does it cost to provide these services?
3. What kinds of family outcomes are being achieved, across LA and by individual FPS provider agencies?
4. What do DCFS workers feel are the strengths, limitations and strategies for refinement for each of the current FPS contractors?
5. What refinements need to be made in Family Preservation Services and performance measurement?

5

## Data Collection Methods

1. Child Welfare Services/Child Management System (CWS/CMS) data,
2. SDM risk and safety data,
3. Family Preservation services and cost data from the billing data base,
4. Special survey of DCFS staff (CSW's and SCSW's) about the contracted FPS that was made possible by the research team in the DCFS Bureau of Information Statistics.

6

### Who Was Served?

	Family-Level (One Focus Child)	Child-Level (All Children)
<b>Family Maintenance:</b>	<b>12,428</b>	<b>29,668</b>
Voluntary (VFM)	6,563	15,628
Court-ordered (FM)	5,865	14,040
<b>Family Reunification:</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>4,972</b>
Voluntary (VFR)	245	537
Court-ordered (FR)	1,913	4,435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,586</b>	<b>34,640</b>

7

### Who Was Served in Terms of Risk of Child Maltreatment as Measured by the Structured Decision-Making Measure (SDM)?

Risk Level	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
<b>High/Very High SDM Risk</b>	<b>77.8%</b> (61.0% – 92.9%)	<b>87.9%</b> (74.5% – 100.0%)	<b>90.2%</b> (83.3% – 96.9%)	<b>90.2%</b> (58.3% – 100.0%)
<b>Very High SDM Risk</b>	<b>15.4%</b> (4.6% – 41.2%)	<b>33.7%</b> (22.1% – 50.0%)	<b>21.7%</b> (8.3% – 31.3%)	<b>37.8%</b> (8.3% – 68.0%)

8

### Cost of FPS Services by Component

FPS Program Component	Cost	Percentage of Program Budget
DCFS FPS	\$122,353,848	76.0%
Alternative Response Services (ARS)	\$19,254,960	12.0%
Probation Family Preservation Services	\$16,642,531	10.3%
Up Front Assessment (UFA)	\$2,663,041	1.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$160,914,381</b>	<b>100%</b>

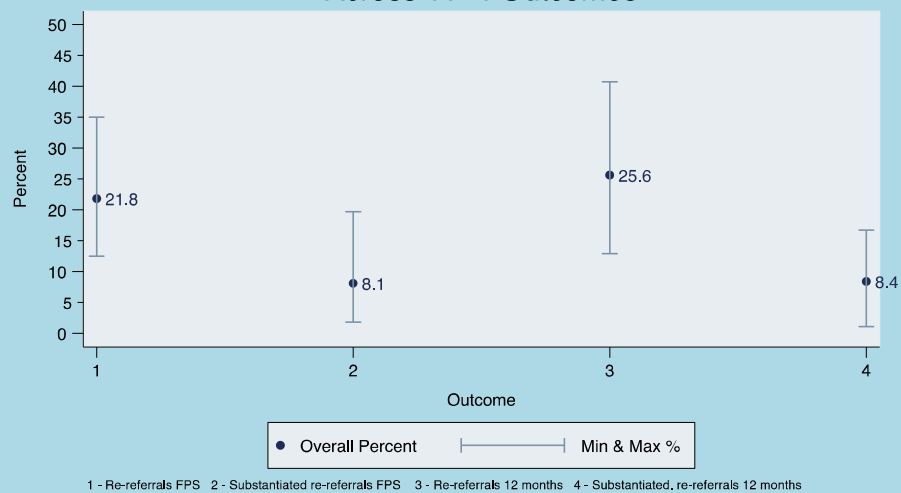
9

### Outcomes: % of Cases with CPS Referrals

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Re-referrals during FPS	21.8% (12.5% – 35%)	18.8% (11.3% – 36.4%)	21.2% (0% – 23.1%)	19.7% (4.3% – 37.5%)
Substantiated re-referrals during FPS	8.0% (1.8% – 19.7%)	6.3% (1.6% – 15.9%)	7.3% (5.7% – 7.7%)	5.2% (1.6% – 20%)
Re-referrals within 12 months	25.6% (12.9% – 40.7%)	23.6% (8.6% – 32%)	27.3% (10% – 41.7%)	25.9% (12.9% – 50%)
Substantiated re-referrals within 12 months	8.5% (1.1% – 16.7%)	7.9% (2.5% – 15.7%)	7.3% (5.7% – 8.3%)	7.8% (2.0% – 25%)

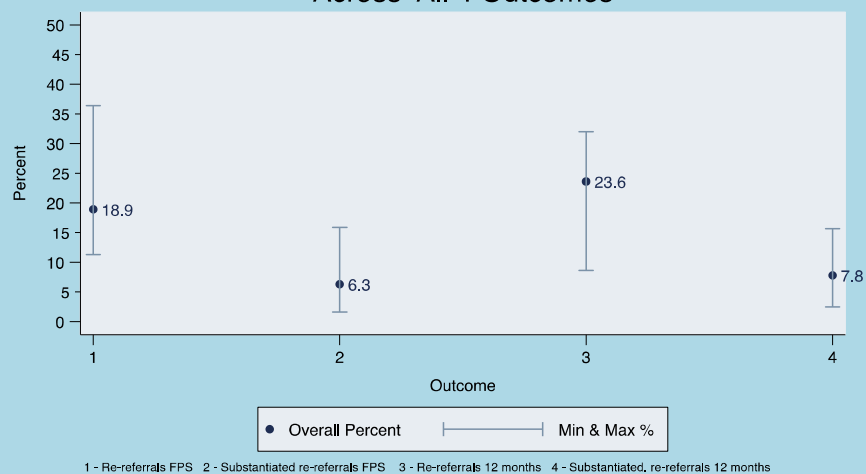
10

## Voluntary Family Maintenance Across All 4 Outcomes



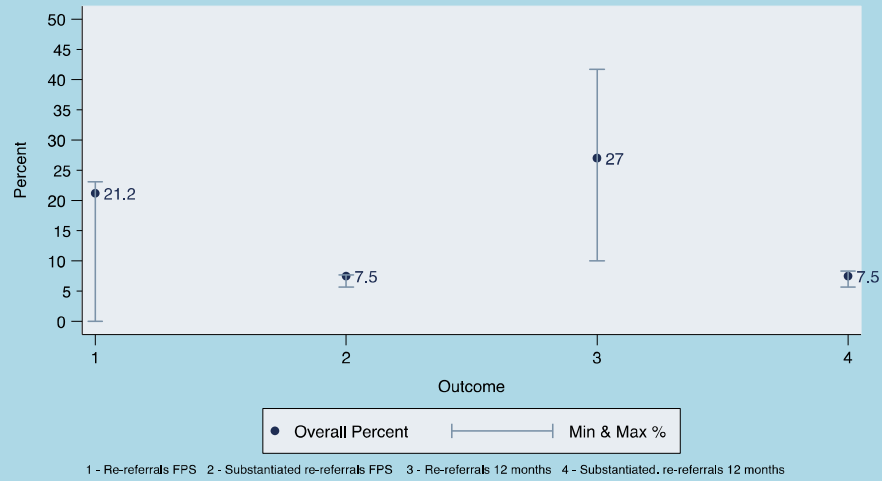
11

## Court-ordered Family Maintenance Across All 4 Outcomes



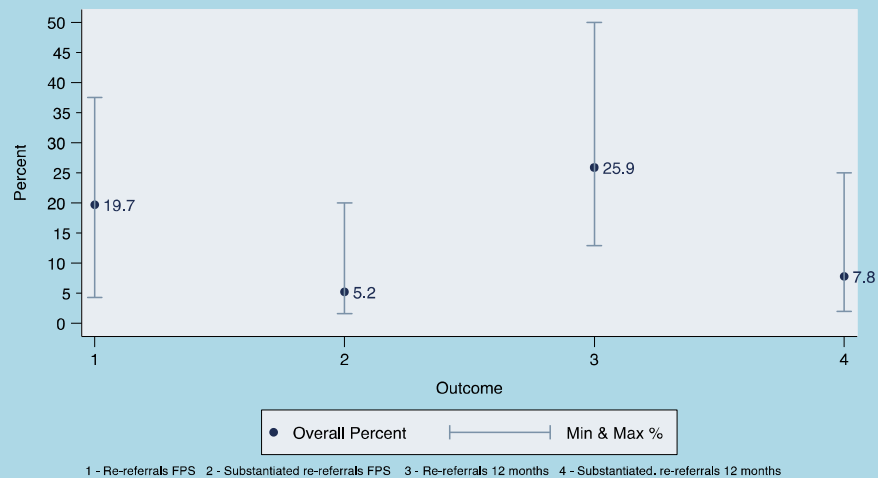
12

## Voluntary Family Reunification Across All 4 Outcomes



13

## Family Reunification Across All 4 Outcomes



14

### Outcomes: New Case Openings and Placements

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
New case openings within 12 months	3.3% (1.0% – 13.7%)	2.8% (0.9% – 10%)	2.9% (no min or max)	1.6% (1% – 16.7%)
Removals during FPS	9.6% (2.4% – 17.7%)	8.7% (3.6% – 17.1%)		
Removals within 12 months	5.9% (1.2% – 13.0%)	6.8% (1.3% – 14.3%)		

15

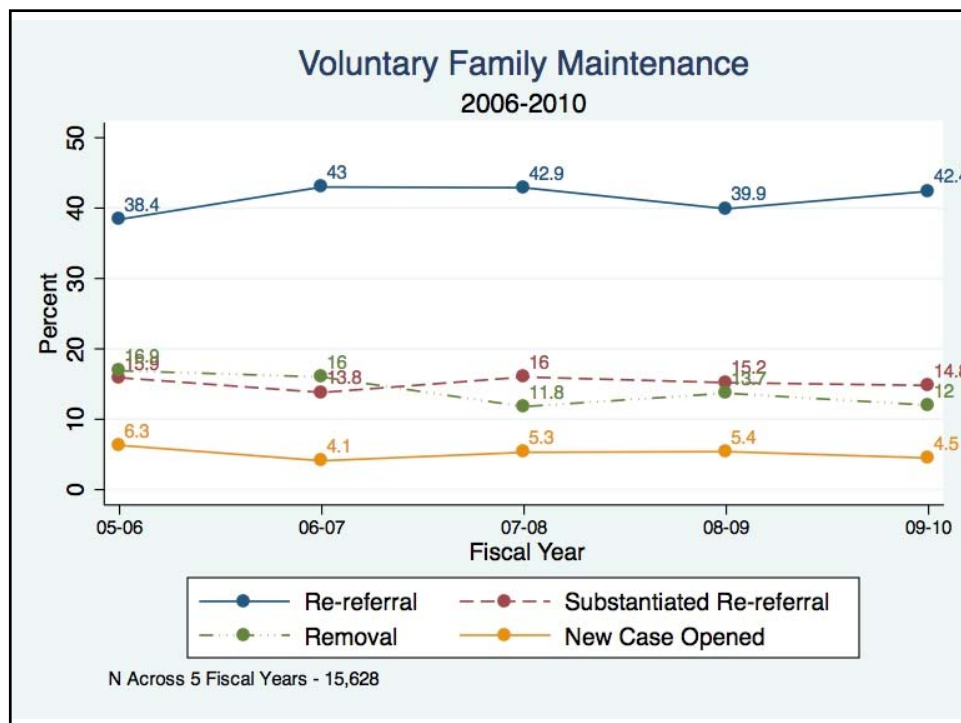
### Outcomes: Family Reunification

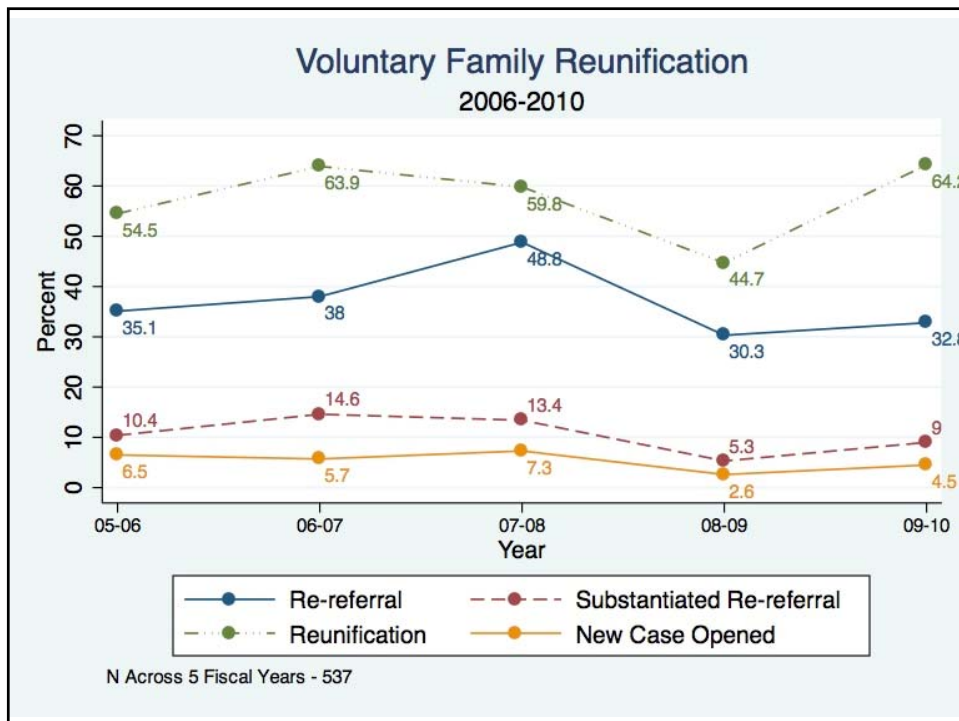
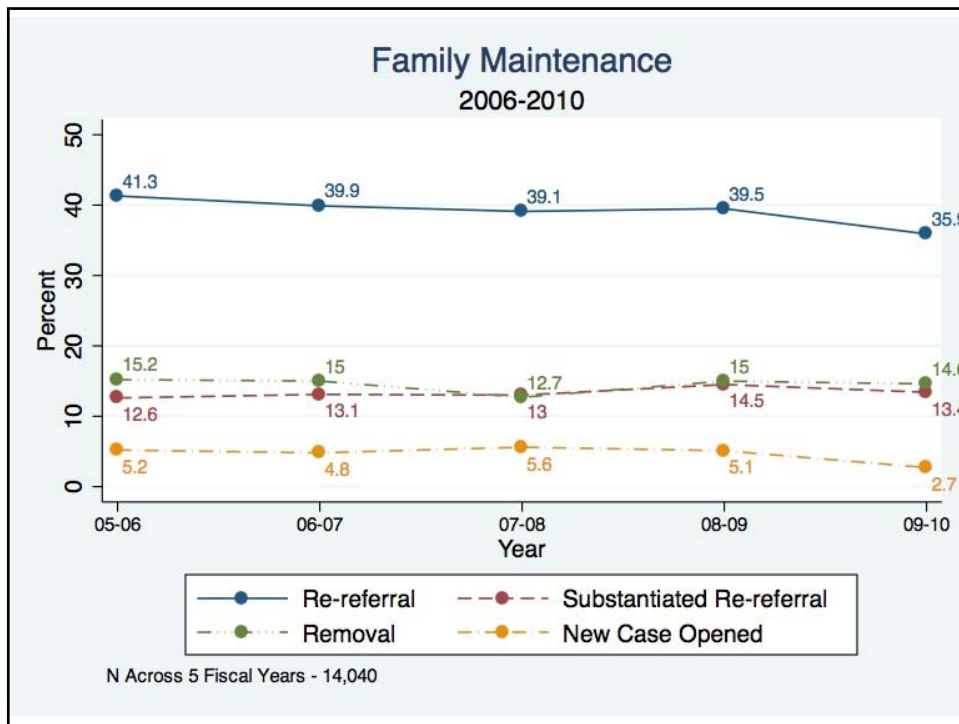
Reunifications	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Within 6 months after start of FPS	29.4% (8.3% – 46.2%)	7.5% (2.6% – 7.7%)
Within 12 months after start of FPS	51.4% (30% – 69.2%)	23.5% (7.7% – 58.3%)
Within 24 months after start of FPS	64.5%	54.9%
TOTAL Reunifications	69.0% (66.7% – 84.6%)	64.8% (40% – 88.5%)

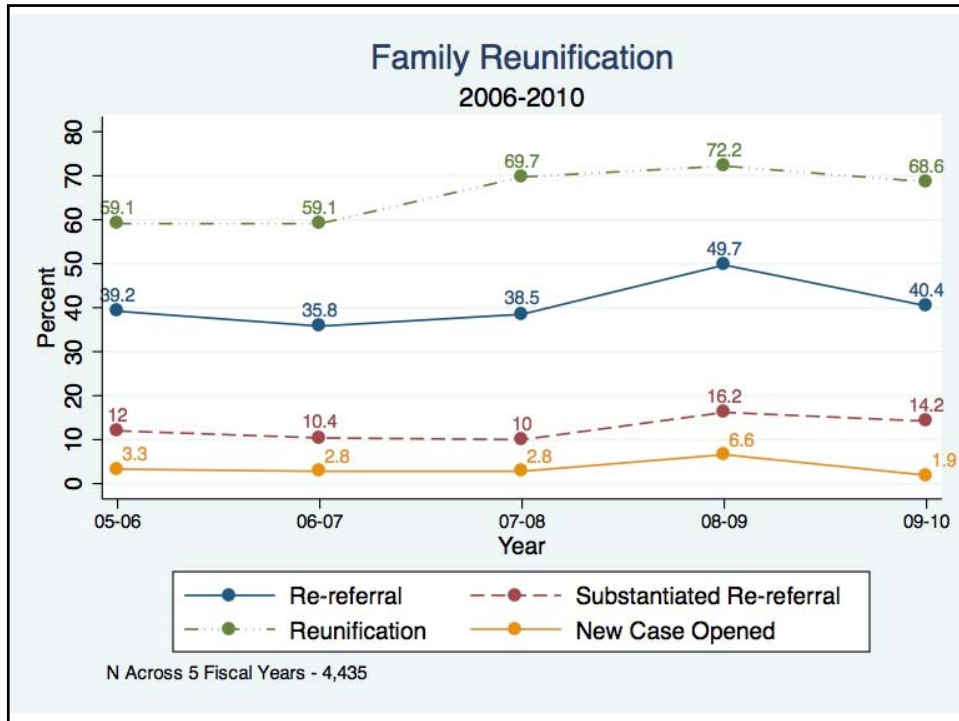
16

2005/2006 – 2009/2010

## OUTCOMES ACROSS 5 FISCAL YEARS

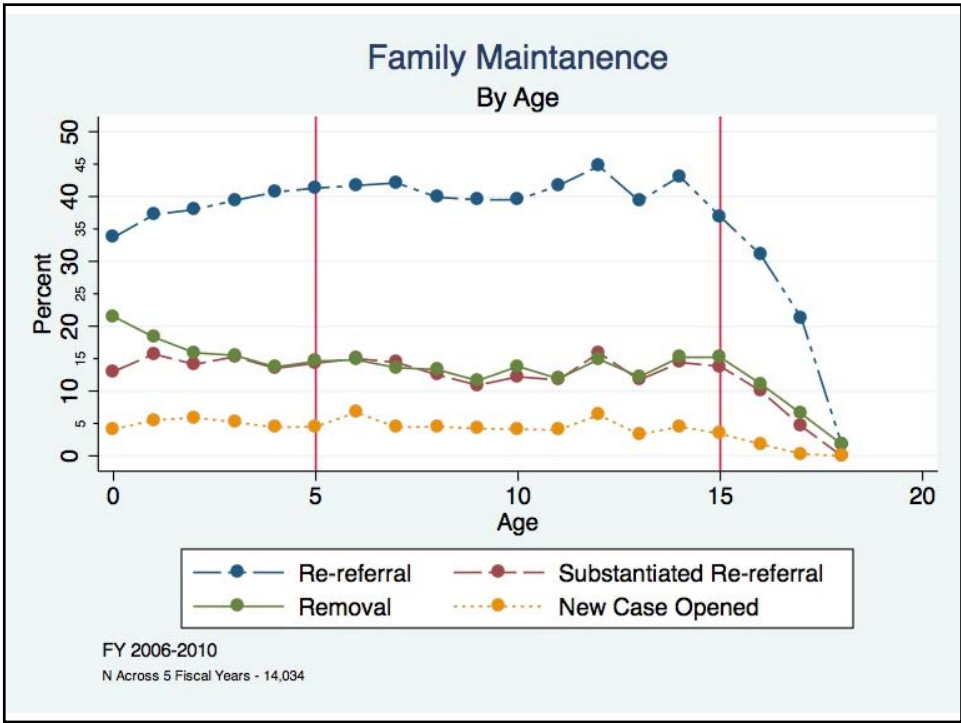
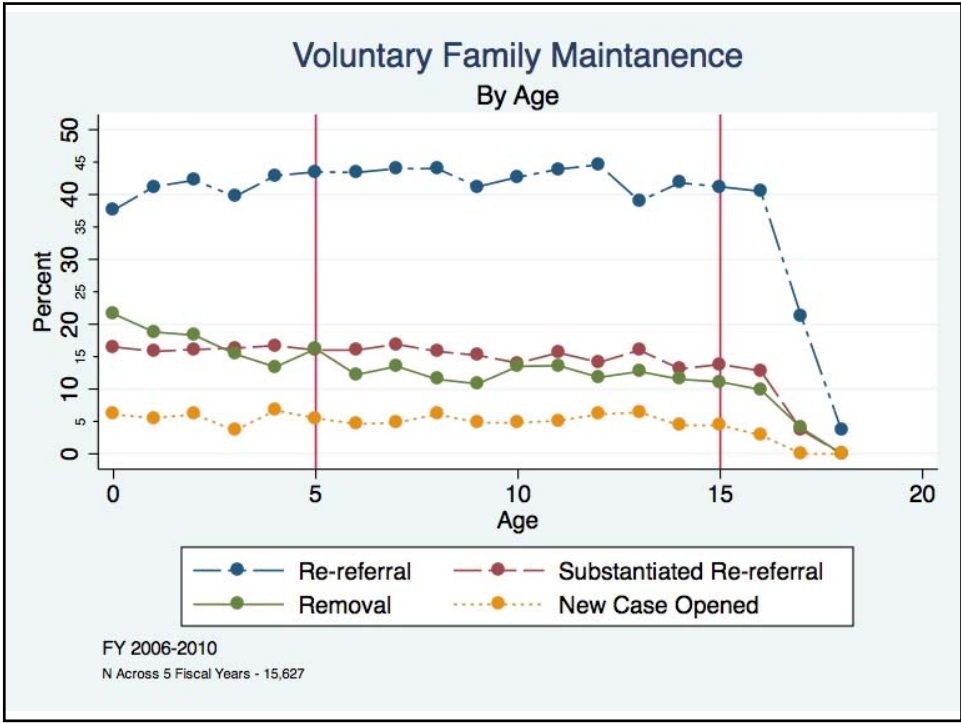




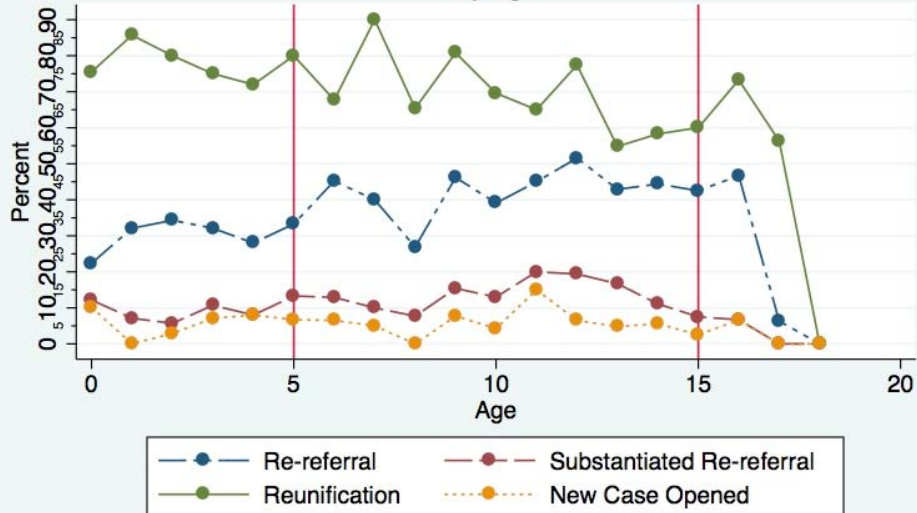


Birth - 17

## OUTCOMES BY AGE



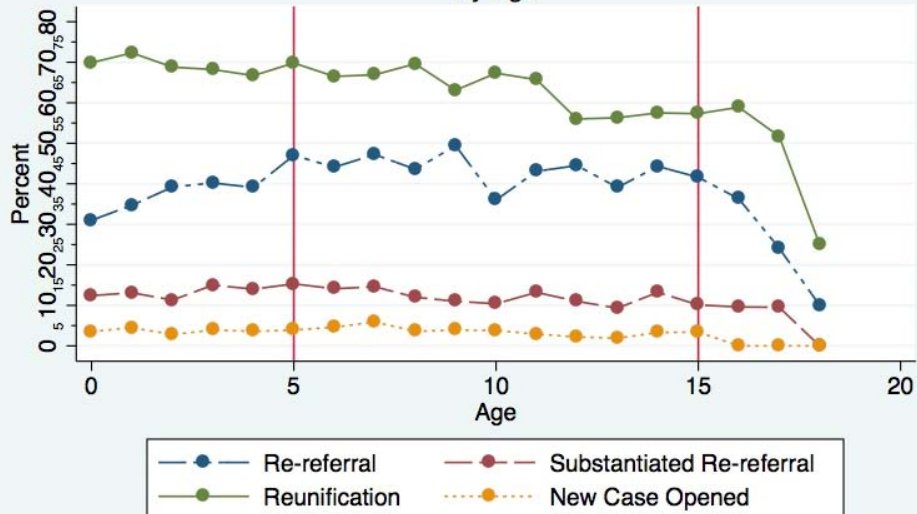
### Voluntary Family Reunification By Age



FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 537

### Family Reunification By Age



FY 2006-2010

N Across 5 Fiscal Years - 4,433

## What Factors Predict Negative FPS Outcomes?

	Voluntary Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance
<b>Re-referral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household size</li> <li>SDM risk score: high or very high risk</li> <li>White child</li> <li>Other child<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household size</li> <li>Black child</li> <li>White child</li> <li>Other child<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Substantiated Re-Referral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household size</li> <li>SDM risk score: high or very high risk</li> <li>Male child</li> <li>White child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household size</li> </ul>
<b>Removal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age of child</li> <li>Household size</li> <li>Age of parent</li> <li>SDM risk score: high or very high risk</li> <li>Black child</li> <li>Other child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household size</li> <li>Age of parent</li> <li>SDM risk score: high or very high risk</li> <li>Male child</li> <li>Black child</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup>*Other child* means a child of any other ethnicity besides Black, White or Latino/Hispanic.

27

## DCFS Worker Perceptions of FPS Contractors

Domain	SCSW n=189		CSW n=811	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
<b>Client Engagement and Service Delivery</b>				
Interaction with families	3.16	0.43	3.27	0.63
Communication and quality assurance	3.08	0.48	3.15	0.65
Service provision	3.15	0.42	3.18	0.59
<b>Overall satisfaction</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>0.65</b>

Survey 1-Strongly Disagree – 4 Strongly Agree

28

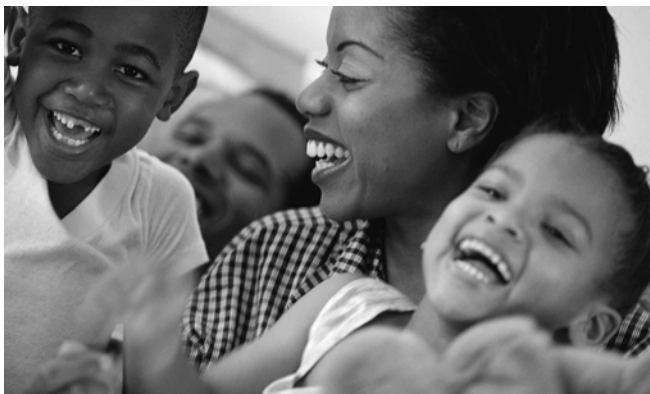
### Recommendations

1. **Increase the consistency of the FPS referral process across regional offices. Also assure that intake criteria are applied in the same way by contracted agencies.**
2. **Review and re-formulate the intervention strategies used as part of FPS.**
3. **Require a core set of assessment measures and performance indicators across all FPS contract agencies.**

### Recommendations (Continued)

4. **Form a FPS Learning Network.**
5. **Incentivize FPS contractor program quality and fidelity.**
6. **Refine service cost measurement.**
7. **Institute better tracking of family movement between FPS program components, define desired processes for transition, and provide post-permanency services.**

## Questions and Discussion



31

## FPS Contact Information

Report compiled by Compiled by Todd Franke, Ph.D., Peter J. Pecora, Ph.D., Erica Rosenthal, M.A., Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Ph.D., Jacquelyn McCroskey, Ph.D., Jaymie Lorthridge, M.S.W., Timothy Ho, M.S. and Anne Vo, M.A.

For more information about this evaluation report, please contact Dr. Peter J. Pecora ([ppecora@casey.org](mailto:ppecora@casey.org)) or Dr. Todd Franke ([tfranke@ucla.edu](mailto:tfranke@ucla.edu)).

For more information about Family Preservation Services in Los Angeles, please contact: Marilynne Garrison, Division Chief, Community-Based Support Division([garrma@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:garrma@dcfs.lacounty.gov)) or Naftali Sampson County Contract Program Manager [sampsna@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:sampsna@dcfs.lacounty.gov)